

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S RECALL

REF: FBIS BK260311Z FEB 75

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN PRACHA KUNAKASEM HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 27 DURING WHICH HE REBUTTED THE INACCURATE ARTICLE IN THE "NATION" OF FEBRUARY 26 (REFERENCE) ALLEGING THAT AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE NOT SMOOTH. BELOW ARE EXCERPTS OF PRACHA'S REMARKS PERTAINING TO THIS SUBJECT:

BEGIN EXCERPTS.

PRACHA: I WISH TO INFORM YOA THAT WHEN A NEW AMBASSADOR IS APPOINTED, THE DIPLOMATIC CUSTOM AND TRADITION ADHERED TO IS FOR THE NAME OF THE PERSON PROPOSED NOT TO BE DISCLOSED UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED AND HIS NAME IS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE ADHERED TO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WHEN WE SELECT A THAI AMBASSADOR TO BE SENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, THE SAME PRINCIPLE IS ADHERED TO AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON SELECTED CANNOT BE DISCLOSED UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT IS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY HE WILL BE STATIONED IN. I MYSELF CANNOT EVEN MAKE A GUESS WHEN THE NEW AMBASSADOR WILL ARRIVE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR WILL LEAVE THAILAND ON MARCH 15. THEREFORE, THE NEW

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AMBASSADOR WILL MOST PROBABLY ARRIVE HERE SHORTLY AFTER

THAT DATE.

REPORTER: WILL YOU DENY THE NEWS REPORT THAT MR.
WHITEHOUSE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR?

PRACHA: AT THIS STAGE I CANNOT MAKE ANY STATEMENT
WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO THE PERSON WHOSE NAME HAS
BEEN PROPOSED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO BE APPOINTED
AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN
APPROVED. SPEAKING ON THIS SUBJECT, I WISH TO RELATE
TO YOU THAT A PERSON CAME AND ASKED ME ABOUT A NEWS
REPORT PUBLISHED IN "THE NATION" WHICH STATED THAT RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE NOT SMOOTH. I THEREFORE TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASISE TO YOU THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN
HIM AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE SMOOTH AND
EXCELLENT. WHEN THE PRESENT AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WENT TO
PAY A CALL ON KHUN CHARUNPHAN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER, ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, IN ORDER TO
INFORM HIM FORMALLY THAT HE HAD BEEN RECALLED, ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN EXPRESSED DEEP REGRETS, STATING
FURTHER THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS GIVEN EXCELLENT
COOPERATION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AND HE HAS
A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTUAL AND TRUE SITUATION
IN THAILAND. IT IS FACT THAT THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR, MR.
KINTNER, HAS CLOSE AND INTIMATE RELATIONS WITH HIGH LEVEL
AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SUCH AS THE AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER. THIS IS A FACT
WHICH KHUN PANSAK (PANSAK WINYARAT OF "SOCIAL SCIENCE
REVIEW" AND AUTHOR OF THE "NATION" ARTICLE) MOST PROBABLY
KNOWS FULL WELL. THEREFORE, FROM THAILAND'S VIEWPOINT,
IT CAN BE CONSIDERED AS BEING BENEFICIAL TO US TO HAVE AN
AMBASSADOR TO OUR COUNTRY WHO IS ABLE TO REPORT VARIOUS
MATTERS DIRECTLY TO HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.
FURTHERMORE, THE NEW POSITION THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS
BEEN APPOINTED TO IS, I UNDERSTAND, A POSITION CONCERNED WITH
WORK HE POSSESSES EXPERIENCE AND GREAT EXPERTISE IN HE IS A
STRATEGIST AND THE WORK IS WORK HE LIKES AND WHICH HE HAS
BEEN PERFORMING FOR AS LONG AS 20-30 YEARS.

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